

DIGITAL STILL CAMERA SYSTEM AND METHOD

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority from provisional applications Serial Nos. 60/172,780, filed 12/20/99; 60/176,272, filed 1/14/00; 60/177,432, filed 1/21/00; 60/214,951, filed 06/29/00; and 60/215,000, filed 06/29/00, ~~plus application Serial No. 09/032,543, filed 08/04/00.~~ The following pending US patent applications disclose related subject matter and have a common assignee with the present application: Serial No. 09/490,813, filed 01/26/00.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to integrated circuits, and more particularly, to integrated circuits and methods for use with digital cameras.

Recently, Digital Still Cameras (DSCs) have become a very popular consumer appliance appealing to a wide variety of users ranging from photo hobbyists, web developers, real estate agents, insurance adjusters, photo-journalists to everyday photography enthusiasts. Recent advances in large resolution CCD arrays coupled with the availability of low-power digital signal processors (DSPs) has led to the development of DSCs that come quite close to the resolution and quality offered by traditional film cameras. These DSCs offer several additional advantages compared to traditional film cameras in terms of data storage, manipulation, and transmission. The digital representation of captured images enables the user to easily incorporate the images into any type of electronic media and transmit them over any type of network. The ability to instantly view and selectively store captured images provides the flexibility to minimize film waste and instantly determine if the image needs to be captured again. With its digital representation the image can be corrected, altered, or modified after its capture. See for example, Venkataraman et al, "Next Generation Digital Camera Integration and Software Development Issues" in Digital Solid State Cameras: Design and Applications, 3302 Proc. SPIE (1998).